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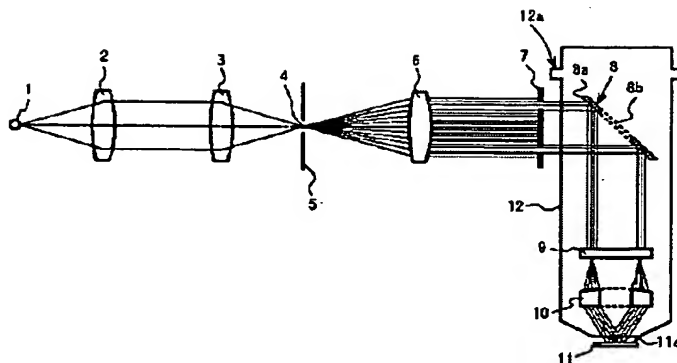
APPLICATION DATE : 11-07-00
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APPLICANT : NIKON CORP;

INVENTOR : MIYASHITA TOMOHIRO;

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TITLE : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR
ILLUMINATING DARK FIELD OF
MICROSCOPE



ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a device and a method for illuminating dark field, by which dark field illumination having sufficient lightness and satisfactorily suppressed non-uniformity in lightness can be conducted.

SOLUTION: This dark field illuminating device for microscope is configured by arranging a light source for supplying illumination light for illuminating an object to be observed, an optical shaping system for shaping luminous flux from the light source into almost parallel luminous flux having an annular cross section, an optical divergence element for converting the almost parallel luminous flux having the annular cross section to a plurality of divergent luminous flux, and an optical convergence element for converging and overlapping the divergent luminous flux on the surface of the object. It is preferable that an optical diffraction element or microlens array is used as an optical divergence element.

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